

Colonial Voices
A Lesson Plan by Deborah Hungerford
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Objective: Students will research key figures from the American Revolution, and write an essay using first person narrative. They will discuss in small groups the motives of their individual, understanding how political, religious, and economic ideas and interests brought about the Revolution.

State Standards: Writing 1.0 Students write clear, coherent, and focused essays. 1.1 Students create multiple-paragraph narrative compositions
History: 5.5 Students describe the views, lives, and impact of key individuals during this period of the American Revolution (e.g., King George III, Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams)

Outcomes: Working in groups, students will research and explore through key figures narrative essays. They will produce a multimedia piece, including voice narration, pictures, and music of the time period.

What you will need:

1. iTunes
2. iPod, iTalk, and iMovie
3. Sample music loaded on the iPod:
4. Internet
5. Reference materials
6. Pencil and paper

Introduction:

1. Tell students they are going to be researching a key figure during the American Revolution. They will be imagining themselves as that person, and write a first person narrative. I will show them the research materials available, as well as the music.

Activity:

Students will gather reference materials to read about the person. They will then form into groups researching same key figure, and discuss that person's life, identifying his/her point of view, influence on the Colonial people, and reasons for his/her ideas.

Students will begin a rough draft of their essay keeping in mind that they are writing in first person. During Writer's Workshop, they will have a chance to edit with an adult volunteer.

As students finalize their essays, they will begin gathering pictures of their key figure, and putting them into their folder on the server. In pairs, they will practice reading their essays aloud, and giving each other positive critiques.

Using iTalk, they will narrate their essay, and save it into their folder. They will state their name at the beginning of the recording.

Students will then choose some background music of the time period from iTunes, and save in their folder.

They will then put their narrations, music, and pictures into an iMovie project.